CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel, the method comprising the steps of:

providing information about the capabilities of the connector card to a memory within the connector card;

examining the information in the memory; and

downloading at least one driver to a system coupled to the I/O connector panel based upon the examined information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the memory comprises an EEROM.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the downloading step is provided by software that is independent of the type of I/O connector panel.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the system includes a core PC function block.

5. An I/O connector panel comprising:

a plurality of I/O connectors; and

a memory containing information about the capabilities of the connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined, ata least one driver can be downloaded to a system coupled to the I/O connector.

6. The connector panel of claim 5 wherein the memory comprises an EEROM.

7. The connector panel of claim 5 wherein the system includes a core PC function block.

8. The connector panel of claim 5 further comprises connector logic coupled to the memory for I/O distribution.

9. The connector panel of claim 5 wherein the memory contains attributes of the I/O connector panel and attributes of each connector installed on the connector panel.

10. A processing system comprising:

a core PC function; and

at least one I/O connector panel coupled to the core PC function, the at least one connector panel comprising: a plurality of I/O connectors and a memory containing information about the capabilities of the connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined, at least one driver can be downloaded to a system coupled to the I/O connector panel.

11. The processing system of claim 10 wherein the memory comprises an EEROM.

12. The processing system of claim 10 further comprises connector logic coupled to the memory for I/O distribution.

13. The processing system of claim 10 wherein the memory contains attributes of the I/O connector panel and attributes of each connector installed on the I/O connector panel.

14. A processing system comprising:

a core PC function; and

a plurality of I/O connector panels coupled to the core PC function, each of the plurality of connector panels comprising a plurality of I/O connectors, an EEROM containing information about the capabilities of the connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined, at least one driver can be downloaded to a system coupled to the I/O connector panel, and connector logic coupled to the EEROM for I/O distribution.

15. The processing system of claim 14 wherein the memory contains attributes of the I/O connector panel and attributes of each connector installed on the I/O connector panel.